

The Punta Gorda Herald

PUNTA GORDA — In Tropical Southwest Florida, a Seaport on the Famous Charlotte Harbor — a Town that is Known for its Natural Attractions and the Hospitality of a Cosmopolitan Citizenship

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PUNTA GORDA, FLORIDA,

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PUBLIC HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

MANY BITTER EXPERIENCES

Have Proven in Florida the Value of Effective Measures Properly Carried Out

Nature punishes violations of her laws. She rigorously exacts the penalties from rich and poor alike. Therefore, it is a pretty good idea to be acquainted with these laws and to know the penalties.

It's a reasonable proposition that the study of these causes and results is the work of those who are specially qualified to undertake it, just as in any other science. Original investigation along these lines is not within the reach of unscientific men, and it is quite as apparent that the work of such scientists should not be hampered by politics or ignorance of the conditions that may make it successful and fruitful, of practical results.

It goes without saying that good health is just about the most valuable possession of every individual and community. So essential is it that every state and all progressive cities have committed the regulation of their sanitary and health affairs to bodies of trained experts, who are known as boards of health, and in the majority of cases these boards are efficient, dependable and vastly more useful in their communities than any other bodies entrusted with the administration of public matters. It takes money to make work effective and, therefore, it is a distinct reflection on the intelligence of any community when those charged with handling its finances, begin their retrenchment for economy's sake, with the expenses of the health departments. It is a reflection on the wisdom and common sense of public officers.

Many and bitter experiences have taught Florida the value of public administration of health affairs, both city and state. The results accomplished have justified the expenditures of public funds in this way.

The city of Jacksonville has a health department that has given the city a reputation far and wide especially in its successful fight against typhoid fever.

Within the past year or eighteen months, the city of Miami has had the wisdom to create a board of health, whose rulings are given the force of municipal ordinance without special enactment by the city council, and the work accomplished has been successful beyond expectation.

Years ago—and not so many years ago, either—the lower East Coast of which Miami is the metropolis, swarmed with flies and mosquitoes, which made life a serious problem in the warmer months of the year. The new board has reduced these pests to almost an unnoticeable minimum, in striking contrast to the conditions that prevail in a number of the more negligent cities in the northern and western part of the state, where natural conditions are much more favorable than in Southern Florida.

How has this been done? By accepting the scientific fact that mosquitoes breed in damp places and by filling in these low spots. By regulating the public and private stables and insisting that manure shall be covered and disinfected and by enforcing penalties for neglect.

It has taken control of the city's

milk supply, with the result that the bacteriological count is lower than that required for certified milk. Dairy stables under its jurisdiction are built with concrete floors, easily cleaned, and with screened milking rooms; the milk is immediately refrigerated and kept on ice until delivered to the customer. In many instances the cows are groomed and particular care is exercised to keep them scrupulously clean and comfortable. Miami revokes the license of milk dealers whose product falls below the required standard. And the courts have sustained the Miami Board of Health in its own work for the public welfare.

And the results? Miami, located in the semi-tropics with many natural conditions against the highest sanitary surroundings, is one of the most healthful cities in Florida.

What Miami has done, every city in the state should do, and every city can do if its affairs are administered by intelligent, up-to-date officials, who are ambitious to continue in office.—State Board of Health Bulletin.

Eat the Pineapple

The partaking of a slice of pineapple after a meal is quite in accordance with physiological indications, since fresh pineapple juice contains a remarkably active digestive principle similar to pepsin. This principle has been termed "bromelin," and so powerful is its action upon proteids that it will digest as much as 1,000 times its weight within a few hours. Its digestive activities varies in accordance with the kind of proteid to which it is subjected. When a slice of fresh pineapple is placed upon a raw beefsteak the surface of the steak becomes gradually gelatinous, owing to the digestive action of the enzyme of the juice.

Of course, digestive agents exist also in other fruits, but when it is considered that an average sized pineapple will yield nearly two pints of juice it will be seen that the digestive action of the whole fruit must be enormous. The activity of this peculiar digestive agent is destroyed in the cooked pineapple, but unless the pineapple is preserved by heat there is no reason why the tinned fruit should not retain the digestive power.

Unlike pepsin, the digestive principle of the pineapple will operate in an acid, neutral, or even alkaline medium, according to the kind of proteid to which it is presented. It may therefore be assumed that the pineapple enzyme would not only aid the work and digestion in the stomach, but would continue that action in the intestinal tract. Pineapple, it may be added, contains much indigestible matter of the nature of woody fibre, but it is quite possible that the decidedly digestive properties of the juice compensate for this fact.—Pensacola Journal.

The Pensacola Journal wants to know if it ever occurred to you that Florida is one of the most resourceful of states and that some useful articles which this state has the decided call on, put it in a class almost by itself. The Journal is right. Florida is teeming with more forms of native wealth than almost any other state in the Union, and a generation hence this great peninsula, with three or four million people in it, with few among them who are not educated and progressive, will be the beauty spot of the nation.—Lakeland Telegram.

October Meeting Board County Commissioners

The Board of County Commissioners met in regular session in their office in the court house, Arcadia, the fourth day of October, A. D. 1915. Following members were present: L. W. Whitehurst, D. L. Skipper, John Hagan, W. M. Whitten and W. G. Welles.

Minutes of the former meeting were read and approved.

The following business was transacted, to-wit:

Commissioner Skipper offered the following resolution, which was duly seconded by Commissioner Hagan, to-wit:

Whereas, the Board of County Commissioners of DeSoto county, heretofore sold to Messrs. J. C. Meyer & Company, of Cincinnati, Ohio, four hundred and twenty (420) bonds known as special road and bridge district No. 1 bonds of said county to the amount of two hundred and ten thousand (\$210,000.00) dollars, said bonds being numbered from one to four hundred and twenty inclusive, of the denomination of five hundred (\$500) dollars each, dated July 1, 1915, bearing interest at the rate of six per centum, payable semi-annually January 1 and July 1; and,

Whereas, by an order of the Board adopted on the 28th day of September, 1915, it was provided that said bonds should be delivered to the purchaser thereof upon the payment of the purchase price to the duly appointed bond trustees; and

Whereas, it has been agreed between this board and the purchaser of said bonds that \$70,000 of said bonds shall be immediately delivered to the purchaser, and the remainder, to-wit: \$140,000 be delivered from time to time or all at one time in accordance with the agreement of purchase and sale between this board and said J. C. Meyer & Company, purchaser, and it has been further agreed that said \$140,000 of bonds be delivered in escrow to the Bank of Wauchula, for delivery to the said purchaser on payment therefor;

Now, therefore, Be it resolved and ordered by the Board of county commissioners of DeSoto county, Florida, that \$140,000 DeSoto county special road and bridge district No. 1 bonds, dated July 1, 1915, payable as follows: \$7,000 on the first day of July, 1922; \$7,000 on the first day of July, 1923; \$7,000 on the first day of July, 1924; \$7,000 on the first day of July 1925; \$7,000 on the first day of July, 1926; \$7,000 on the first day of July 1927; \$7,000 on the first day of July, 1928; \$7,000 on the first day of July, 1929; \$7,000 on the first day of July, 1934; \$7,000 on the first day of July, 1935; \$7,000 on the first day of July, 1936; \$7,000 on the first day of July 1937; \$7,000 on the first day of July, 1938; \$7,000 on the first day of July, 1939; \$7,000 on the first day of July, 1940; \$7,000 on the first day of July, 1941; \$7,000 on the first day of July, 1942; \$7,000 on the first day of July 1943; \$7,000 on the first day of July, 1944; \$7,000 on the first day of July 1945 bearing interest at the rate of six per cent. payable semi-annually, January 1 and July 1, in each year, be and they hereby are directed to be delivered in escrow by the board of bond trustees to the Bank of Wauchula for the purpose of delivery of the same to Messrs. J. C. Meyer & Co., the purchasers, simultaneously with the payment to the board of

bond trustees of DeSoto county, of the purchase price of said bonds, being one hundred, thirty-three thousand, three hundred, sixty-four dollars (\$133,364.00) and accrued interest to the date of delivery, or in the event that said bonds are taken up in installments upon receipt of the proportionate part of said sum of one hundred, thirty-three thousand, three hundred, sixty-four dollars (\$133,364.00) and accrued interest to date of delivery, and upon such payment being made, the said Bank of Wauchula is hereby authorized and directed to deliver to Messrs. J. C. Meyer & Company, the purchasers thereof; and it is

Further ordered, that the matured coupons thereon at date of delivery shall be detached from said bonds and cancelled by the board of bond trustees before the delivery of the bonds.

The foregoing order and resolution were duly put to a vote and

unanimously adopted. Moved that the deed from H. P. Rasmussen et al to DeSoto county for 35 feet off the north side of northwest quarter of northeast quarter, section 30, township 40 south, range 24 east, be accepted and a warrant drawn in favor of H. P. Rasmussen, Hans P. Jamison and Hans Hansen for \$100 each on road fund of district No. 3 in payment for same. That the clerk be directed to have the same properly recorded.

Moved, that the lease for 99 years of a part of section 29, township 41 south, range 23 east, by J. Harvey Miller and wife be accepted, and a warrant for \$50 be drawn in payment for same, and that the clerk be directed to have the same recorded.

Resolved, that the petition of L. C. Baird and eighteen others for a road in township 41 south, range 25 east, also in township 40 south, range 24 east, be granted, and that Oscar Kahl, Oscar Tarsen and William Turner be appointed to view and mark out said road and recommend the width that can be secured for said roads without interfering with permanent improvements. The clerk is directed to mail notice of this resolution to L. C. Baird, Bairdville. To the Board of County Commissioners:

Gentlemen: The residents of Bairdville, township 41 south, range 25 east, are grubbing the palmettoes from a tract thirty (30) feet wide on section line in said township beginning between sections five (5) and six (6), seven (7) and eight (8) south to northwest corner of section seventeen (17); one mile east on section line between sections 16, 17, 20, 21, 28, 29, 32, and 33 to south boundary of township.

We respectfully request your honorable board to legalize same as a public road. Also in township 40 south, range 24 east, on section line at a point where bridge is to be built over Shell creek one mile east of John Addison's to open a road from said bridge on section line south to road between townships 40 and 41, giving a complete belt road from Punta Gorda via Cleveland, Shell creek, Bairdville, Marlboro and Pineapple river.

Respectfully submitted, H. Babenhausen, W. L. Collins, C. D. Richmond, H. L. Dotson, C. E. Goodell, Ida Huckleby, J. I. Ripper, J. E. Horn, D. E. Yeoman, J. S. Lanier, J. C. Hebron,

G. Hobson, L. C. Baird, O. P. Kahl, F. L. Johnson, M. Hoffman, Oscar Thorsen, Agnes Heazke, T. Rudin. Whereas, the present system of caring for unfortunates who become a public charge, is expensive and unsatisfactory,

Therefore, Be it resolved, that the chairman of this board and Commissioner Hagan and Farm Demonstrator Joseph Crews, be appointed a special committee to investigate and ascertain whether a more satisfactory method cannot be adopted by establishing a poor house, or otherwise, and report their finding to this board at their earliest convenience.

To the Board of County Commissioners:

Gentlemen: We, the bond trustees of the Punta Gorda special road and bridge district, request you to make the following change in the method of construction and management of the road building, i. e.:

Instead of letting contracts for same as formerly arranged, that you purchase the necessary machinery and proceed to do the work with labor (convicts or free labor) hired by day or otherwise, as you may hereafter determine. That you may let part contracts for such work as you may determine may be a saving in time or expense.

This is under the authority of an act passed by the 1915 legislature of the state of Florida, and entitled "An act to empower the board of county commissioners of DeSoto county, Florida, to make changes in roads and manner of improving same in the Punta Gorda special road and bridge district."

A. B. TUCKER, H. R. DREGGORS, C. H. CORWIN, Bond Trustees.

Moved by D. L. Skipper and seconded by W. G. Welles, that the petition of the bond trustees of Punta Gorda road and bridge district be granted; unanimously carried.

It was moved and carried that the bid of Edwards Construction Company be accepted for complete construction of all roads numbered one to ten inclusive, in special road and bridge district number one in DeSoto county, Florida, it being expressly understood that the particular road material to be used on each road or part thereof shall be designated by the board.

Moved, that the report of W. R. Fugate, E. T. Jamison and L. B. Neese, the committee appointed to view and mark a proposed public road beginning at northeast corner of southeast corner of southeast quarter of southeast quarter, section 24, township 39 south, range 23 east, and running west to the northwest corner of southeast quarter of southwest quarter section 24, thence south to and across Thornton Branch, be accepted, and that said road be established to a width of forty feet, and the clerk is hereby directed to post notice of this action of this board at the court house door and at the postoffice at Fort Ogden.

Tuesday Morning

Board convened according to adjournment.

It was moved and carried that Charlie Simmons be leased to W. R. Varn for the remainder of his term at \$10 per month.

The comptroller is hereby requested to allow Mrs. F. E. Hutchison to redeem northwest quarter of southwest quarter, section 26, township 39 south, range 29 east, at face value without interest. The reason for this request is that the (Concluded on last page)

APPLY BABCOCK TEST TO GROVE

AND ELIMINATE THE DRONES

Advise Leo B. Scott of U. S. Department of Agriculture Bureau Plant Industry

"Apply the Babcock Test to the grove and eliminate the drones," Leo B. Scott, of the United States Department of Agriculture Bureau of Plant Industry struck a responsive note in the Citrus Seminar at the University of Florida with the foregoing statement. Mr. Scott's lecture was on bud selection. He has been connected with the bud selection investigation in California for four years. He advised the growers to be as careful in selecting their budding stock as the progressive farmer is in selecting his seed corn. Experiments in California have shown that buds selected from heavy bearing trees produce like offspring. He would have the grower select not only from productive trees but from the heavy bearing branches of those trees.

Mr. Scott said that only 10 per cent of the trees in many groves were producing a profit. The remainder were barely paying expenses or were an actual loss. To be able to tell which trees are working and which are loafing he advises the growers to keep individual performance records. Guess work and general impression will not do. Furthermore, the individual records will show from which trees the bud should be taken.

"It is just as important for the fruit grower to know the production of each tree as it is for the dairyman to know the production of each cow," said Mr. Scott. Each tree should be given a number which will indicate the block, row, and position in the row. Pickers should be assigned to a group of trees and the product of each tree should be kept separate and recorded on printed blanks. This method gives increased efficiency and places the responsibility for the picking on certain men. The bud should be selected from good standard record trees with the fruit attached. This method eliminates any chances of using buds from drone trees or branches. Trees which have been proved loafers from the records should be rebudded from this stock, or if they are unhealthy or unthrifty they should be replaced by young trees budded from productive trees.

Bleached Oats Worthless

The Extension Division of the University of Florida calls attention to a recent warning sent out by the United States Department of Agriculture concerning bleached oats. Oats which have been damaged or which are discolored and immature are often treated with sulphur dioxide to make them white, and water is added to them to make them heavy. Such practices are in violation of the Food and Drugs Act.

Farmers are warned that the germinating powers of oats treated in the foregoing manner may be seriously impaired. No shipments of such oats are permitted from one state to another under Federal laws, but the law does not hold on intra-state shipments. It is best to buy seed oats locally if home grown seed are not available. The farmer knows under what conditions his neighbor's grain was grown and harvested.